

THE EVENING STAR.

With Sunday Morning Edition.

WASHINGTON.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 1909.

THEODORE W. NOYES, Editor.

Entered as second-class mail matter at the post office at Washington, D. C.

THE STAR has a regular and permanent family circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

The Evening Star, with the Sunday morning edition, is delivered by carriers within the city at 10 cents per copy, outside the city at 15 cents. Single copies, 5 cents.

By mail, postage prepaid: Daily, Sunday included, one month, 50 cents. Three months, \$1.50. Six months, \$2.50. One year, \$4.50. Single copies, 5 cents.

The Value of the Extra Session.

The wisdom and the good politics of this extra session of Congress are questions for dealing with the tariff question are very plain now. It was inevitable that a great deal should be kicked up by the new bill. That could not have been avoided. Any bill would have produced the result. The bird that is hit flutters. The industry affected by tariff revision does the same thing. There is a good deal of fluttering, as was to be expected.

But fortunately for the party in power there will be about eighteen months for the tariff to die down. The next congressional elections will not take place until November of next year. The new tariff law, therefore, will have a full, fair day in court before a verdict is rendered. And again, the work of this session will have been on trial about six months when Congress meets in regular session. By that time any deficiency in the revenue-raising character of the new law will stand revealed, and such deficiency may be remedied by some special tax not touching general business interests. So that by the early fall of next year the new tariff work of the republicans will everywhere be clearly understood by all voters, and they can vote on it, not as influenced by the rattle and bang of stump appeals, but by knowledge gained from experience.

How different it all might be if election day were next November! Then there would be a temptation for the minority, especially in the Senate, to delay action, hold the republicans off until action, and then force them to trial at the polls before the country had time to digest the measure.

Two campaigns illustrate this point. The republicans were forced to a trial at the polls on the McKinley bill when the ink on the measure was hardly dry. That bill stood, as the Payne bill now stands, under charges of discrimination against household expenses, and the women everywhere were profoundly stirred. They received the credit, indeed, of electing the democratic House chosen in November, 1890. And two years later, while the tide then set in motion was still running, a democratic President was elected.

The democrats were forced to a trial at the polls on the Gorman-Wilson bill within three months of its enactment into law and while their party was still in the throes of the internecine row which the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act and the tariff question had caused. Union of effort was impossible. As the result, the republicans carried the House that year, and have since within a year since fifteen years running—and two years later captured the presidency, and have held that ever since—twelve years running.

The Payne bill is certain of some changes in the House, of others in the Senate, and of others still in conference. But whatever is done there will be a republican measure, and that party is well constituted on the length of time it will have for explanation before the electorate records its judgment at the polls.

Historic Papers in Filmy Buildings.

The destruction by fire of the Mexican chamber of deputies and the loss of precious documents gives to the world an other lesson of the danger of keeping historic papers in non-fire-resistant buildings, and perhaps also of the wisdom of permitting the construction of this class of buildings.

The Mexican Herald of March 24 says: "The value of the building, which originally cost \$100,000, was small compared with that of the documents which were consumed, including the original constitutions which formed the basis of Mexican independence as well as the reforms initiated by Benito Juarez."

Among the greatest losses to Mexico were those of the original constitution of 1811, which was signed at Chilpancingo and for many years was guarded in the archives in that city; the act of independence, signed in 1821 when Iturbide made Mexico the constitution of 1824 and the constitution of 1857, and the latter day reforms were inaugurated, as well as the signatures of the heroes of Mexican independence and Mexican history.

In the matter of storing rare documents in filmy buildings, Mexico is not the sole offender. The United States, with its boast of thrift, progressiveness and foresight, its riches and practical sense, and all that, is a notorious offender. Right here in Washington government records that are not to be duplicated are kept in combustible structures. The fire policy which has been abandoned is a policy with no keen sense of prophecy to foretell that some day or some night the nation will suffer irreparable loss.

Fire losses in the United States due to filmy construction are appalling, and of late many writers have been calling the attention of the public to this subject. The destruction of historic records by fire in the United States has been especially grievous. Here in the Potomac valley tons of priceless papers allowed to lie in frail chambers and courthouses have gone up in smoke.

Americans in many ways are a heedless people. The Wright brothers are reveling in cheers or compliments. The era of regulations as to numbers and speed limits for flying machines is still before them.

An Indian with such a name as "Crazy Snake" would be hard watching on general principles.

The Celebrity Killer.

A celebrity pays dearly for his whistle. And yet whistles are forever in demand. Wits, and parodists, and sensationalists all take their fling at the man in the public eye, hanging stories on him, quoting him for sentiments quite foreign to his convictions, and even taking his life now and then—in the humor to indulge in "murder" as a literary art.

This last feature of a celebrity's experience cannot be agreeable, although it is common. Rumor will take off a sovereignty at times for effect on the stock market. It will take off a candidate for office early on election day. It will take off a sensitive man merely to give him a jar.

The celebrity killer has been busy of late. Ten days ago he took off Vice President Sherman while the latter was on a business visit home. Apoplexy was given as the cause of death. The trou-

ble was chosen probably because of Mr. Sherman's high color and good keeping. As a matter of fact, the Vice President was in perfect health. He received the news with great good nature, and when asked how long his stay in Utica would be, replied in Mark Twain's vein and with equal wit, "Until after the funeral."

King Edward is on the continent for rest and pleasure, and has been killed once, and twice stricken with paralysis since, within a fortnight. But as he is an old veteran he may not mind very much. He is not so young as he was, but he has not ordered his coffin. It is unnecessary to say that his death at this time would be a great loss both to his kingdom and the world at large. He is a powerful factor in the peace equation.

Night before last John G. Carlisle, who has been out of the public eye for some years but is still well remembered, was assaulted on the street late last night by a man who had been drinking. Carlisle, knowing no reason for such a yarn, he could only wonder as to its source and object. He is probably still wondering.

It is not every man who can bear this sort of thing philosophically. Even seasoned politicians have been known to be incensed and oppressed by it. Mr. Blaine was such a man. He was extremely sensitive about his health and appearance, and after his health began to decline a solicited expression on the face of an old friend would almost send him to bed. Some of the irritability of Emperor William was ascribed a few years ago to the brutality of the Parisian press, which at that time enlarged with heartless details upon an affection which manifested itself in one of the Kaiser's papers.

The matter could not altogether be kept from him, and he chafed under the unfeeling treatment of his enemies. The only compensation for those thus attacked is the reflection that they still count in affairs. The never-have-beens and the have-beens are not game for sport of this kind. They die in their own good time, no way. There is no object for the fakers to hurry them off.

Clean-Up Campaigns.

Washington's agitation for clean streets is always more or less active. In the anti-litter campaign being carried on by the city, the ladies of the city are everywhere being clearly understood by all voters, and they can vote on it, not as influenced by the rattle and bang of stump appeals, but by knowledge gained from experience.

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FIFTY YEARS AGO

IN THE STAR.

Incendiarism was becoming seriously frequent in this city half a century ago, buildings being fired at night. In the Star of March 28, 1859, is the following news item telling of the latest occurrence of this character.

Another incendiary bonfire lit up the seventh ward a frame building occupied by the estate of William Bird occupied by Cassell & West as a feed depository, was fired and consumed, giving barely time to save a horse from the flames. But for the strenuous efforts of the firemen the row of large frame houses in the neighborhood would have shared the same fate. Near about the same time an attempt was made to fire two frame houses in the same neighborhood. Under these circumstances the citizens of the seventh ward, in despair of any aid from the constituted authorities, may well look about them for the means of self-protection. The police force as at present organized is not calculated for the detection of these incendiary villains. Instead of watching them, they are quite competent to watch the officers, who are easily distinguishable by their dress. We should suppose that a portion of the present police force, which appears to be too unwieldy for active duty, could be advantageously employed in citizens' dress, and that the city authorities can quite as legitimately offer rewards for the detection of incendiary villains as for the detection of thieves and burglars.

The note had been given and it was stated, and was submitted with the object of terminating all misunderstandings between Austria-Hungary and Servia. Subsequently it was officially declared that the Austria-Hungarian foreign office approved the Servian note and at an end.

Servia has one consolation which may help her in the future, namely, that her humiliation is shared in a greater degree, by those who prepared the note. Russia, England, France and Italy. Servian journals declare that Servia's cause was betrayed by the entire press of the country, and that the reason for the recognition by Russia of the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina was certainly a great misfortune for Servia. It constituted a shame and disgrace for Russia, and this accusation by the Servian press is repeated in the entire press of the world.

On the other hand in official and military circles it is well understood that the necessities of the situation have total uprisings of the army and the navy, and that a great loan should be contracted at the earliest opportunity for the rearmament of the infantry, whose guns were unfit.

The French press likewise is angered over the action of Russia and the consequent check to the policy pursued by the new triple alliance—a policy which maintains the balance of power in the Balkans, and which is modified without the consent of the signatory powers, which had loyally raised themselves against Russia's ultimatum of 1908.

The shock of Russia's concession and the defeat of the anti-German alliance has immediate consequences of an interpretation in the house of commons on the 26th ultimo by Mr. Balfour, who accused the cabinet of incompetence, and offered the following resolution:

"In the opinion of this chamber the policy of her majesty's government as to the Balkan question has been so conducted as to be immediately constructed does not guarantee sufficiently the security of the empire."

A view of the present political situation and the onus of defeat in the Balkans, of which England, France and Italy must bear, shared in common with Russia, there was full attendance of the diplomatic corps in anticipation of a party conference.

Edward Grey, secretary for foreign affairs, replying to the resolution offered by Mr. Balfour, said, in part, that he did not wish to lessen the gravity of the situation; he recognized the existence of a new state of things, for when Germany had completed her naval program she will be a triple alliance, and three Dreadnoughts, and her marine will be the most powerful ever seen in the world.

On this account there was necessity of maintaining a superior power. The divergence of views hangs upon the period of its construction. We know that it should be done, but we do not know when.

Sir Edward added that there was great amelioration in England's relations with Germany since the king's visit to Berlin. Edward's Berlin visit would be two points which could provoke a conflict.

One would be an attempt on England's part to isolate Germany, and the other, the initiative of a great continental power to dominate the policy of others.

Between these two questions of isolation and domination there exists a vast gulf. Isolation is a policy which may be followed together. There is no more reason to fear that Germany may isolate England than that England would isolate Germany. England's naval budget depends upon the cost of a fleet of super-turbine ships.

From the Chicago Tribune. Senator Castro's heroic determination to present his services to his country even at the cost of a patent was not over-whelmed a patent would with surprise.

From the Birmingham Age-Herald. Castro may be asked to make a full stop at Colon.

From the Memphis Commercial-Appeal. Castro is going back to Venezuela to pour the little oil of vitriol on the troubled waters.

From the Omaha Bee. Castro declares that providence is calling him to Venezuela. Providence must be planning to have Castro get his.

From the Birmingham Ledger. Castro is not coming back enough to go to Venezuela. We can think of no man we would more willingly see make a martyr of himself on the altar of folly.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. Venezuela cannot devise an effective quarantine against Castro the government must be weak indeed.

From the Council Bluffs Nonpareil. It is natural that the thrifty Castro should act as his own watch agent.

From the Detroit Free Press. Castro will probably find that there is no place quite so hot as home.

From the Newark News. Still, it is entirely evident to the most astute of the statesmen that Castro must land somewhere.

PEACE WITH DISHONOR.

THE political duel between Russia, England, France and Italy on the one part, and Austria-Hungary and Germany on the other, has ended, for the moment at least, in peace, but peace with dishonor. Servia protested against the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina by Austria, because she was anxious to her national existence. Russia, England, France and Italy protested because the annexation was a distinct violation of the treaty of Berlin, of which the parties of the first part and second part were signatories.

Russia voluntarily, or involuntarily, was the scapegoat of the situation. She had committed herself to the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and she would maintain peaceful relations with Austria-Hungary; that she would discharge the entire responsibility of the situation, and would not permit the formation of irregular troops or bands.

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HOBOKEN.

Think of it, children in future times, When they tell of his daring in prose and rhyme: The slayer of beasts in the jungles wild, Think of his sailing, my child, my child— From Hoboken!

Marvellous beasts he will no doubt meet In the jungles of the desert heat, And many a rare avian shoot. To put on the shelves of the institute— From Hoboken!

Think of it—battered far and wide, This fearless hunter of elephant's hide, Starting his journey, with snuffing face, From such a ridiculous starting place— From Hoboken!

Annals of heroism, how will it be At the end of the sixteenth century, To read of each shining hero and fear: "He started, with many a parting tear, From Hoboken!"

What will the gossamer say, And the blue rhinoceros, allied at play, Think of a hunter who started out Over the great dark continent's jungle rout To read of each shining hero and fear: "He started, with many a parting tear, From Hoboken!"

"I love you," sang an ardent swain, "Far more than words can say." A building came upon the scene— The swain was smothered in the machine. Although 'twas true he loved the maid— He did not love her quite enough To let that building catch him.

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